

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM**  
**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON TUNA TRACKING**  
**20<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**  
**18 October 2005**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

	<u>Documents</u>
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of minutes of the 19 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
4. Presentation of Nicaraguan Tuna Tracking Plan	
5. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system	TT-20-05
6. Draft conversion factor questionnaire	TT-20-06
7. Implementation of section 7 of the Tuna Tracking and Verification System regarding international program to review and check national programs	TT-20-07
8. Recommendations for the IRP	
9. Other business	
10. Place and date of next meeting	
11. Adjournment	

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking was held in La Jolla, California, on 18 October 2005. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Ms. Pat Donley of the United States, Chair of the Working Group.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented

**3. Approval of the minutes of the 19th meeting**

The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as previously circulated by the Secretariat.

**4. Presentation of Nicaraguan Tuna Tracking Plan**

Dr. Manuel Pérez narrated an informative presentation of the tuna tracking plan developed for use in Nicaragua. Copies of his presentation are available from the Secretariat.

**5. Review of the implementation of the dolphin safe certification system**

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), reviewed Document TT-20-05, which addresses matters related to the tuna tracking and dolphin-safe certification programs. This report updated the information from the last meeting of the Working Group, presenting

comparisons of dolphin safe certificates and their corresponding Tuna Tracking Forms (TTFs) for trips that ended on or after January 1, 2004, and included a summary of the TTFs received by the Secretariat.

It was noted that certificates must be submitted to the Secretariat within the first five days of the month following the month in which the certificate was issued. Several members believed that this may be too short a time when certificates are issued near the end of the month. The Working Group agreed to ask the IRP to approve a modification to the *Procedures for AIDCP dolphin-safe certification* for submission of the certificates within 15 days instead of 5. The Working Group also discussed establishing a deadline for submission of certificates. For example, a certificate received by the Secretariat more than 60 or 90 days after its issuance would not be considered valid. The Working Group did not approve this change, but decided that the matter should be considered in the future.

#### **6. Draft conversion factor questionnaire**

Dr. Allen presented Document TT-20-06, recalling that during its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2005, the working group asked the Secretariat to draft a questionnaire that the Parties could circulate to their respective processing industries to gather information on the yield of processed products from whole tuna. This information would be used to derive average conversion factors to relate the weight of whole tuna caught, as recorded by the observers on the TTFs, to various frozen and processed products recorded on the dolphin safe certificates. It is important to be able to establish an objective correlation between the two values, and thus ensure the integrity of the certificates.

Consequently, TT-20-06 includes a form and instructions for processors to report ranges of yields of raw tuna to final products. After discussion, the Working Group decided that it was important to start addressing the matter of yields, and that the Secretariat should provide the form and instructions it had prepared to each government, with a request that it survey its processors as to the usefulness of the form, the yields or range of yields for products, their comments on the form, and any other pertinent information they may wish to provide.

The Working Group requested that the governments return the results of their surveys to the Secretariat within 90 days. The Secretariat should then analyze the results and present that information during the next meeting of the Working Group in June 2006. All information received should be maintained as confidential by the Secretariat.

#### **7. Implementation of section 7 of the Tuna Tracking and Verification System regarding international program to review and check national programs.**

Dr. Allen presented document TT-20-07, noting that at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin Safe Tuna Certification System, held in June 2005, it was noted that the best approach for the AIDCP Parties regarding the certification of dolphin-safe tuna would be to continue to strengthen the AIDCP, particularly with regard to third-party verification of the agreed procedures. In this connection, it was pointed out that Section 7 of the System for Tracking and Verifying Tuna contains a provision committing the Parties to work cooperatively towards the development of an international program to facilitate general reviews and spot checks of national tracking and verification programs. The Working Group asked that a paper on this subject be prepared for a future meeting.

Dr. Allen also noted that this question also arose during the recent discussions in the FAO of guidelines on ecolabelling. Specifically, when the FAO meeting considered the AIDCP dolphin safe certification program, with a view to determining whether it would meet the FAO standards for ecolabeling being considered, the question arose as to whether there was an international program to verify the tracking processes conducted by each government involved in the AIDCP tracking and certification programs.

Document TT-20-07 included suggestions for several elements that could be included in the establishment of an international program, if the Parties were in favor of such an approach.

During the discussion, several issues surfaced with regard to establishing an international audit and/or

spot check program, including whether to involve an outside party in the audit, whether the audit should include other facets of the AIDCP program, the participation in audits and/or spot checks by the Secretariat, and operational and budgetary matters.

The Working Group agreed that each Party should report on its internal audits and spot checks at the next meeting. The representative of the European Union volunteered to prepare a more extensive document on the subject, and the representative of Mexico invited Dr. Allen or some other member of the Secretariat to participate in a spot check or audit to be conducted before the next meeting of the Working Group. The representative of El Salvador also stated that a representatives of the Secretariat, and of any other Party, were welcome to visit the processing plant in her country.

#### **8. Recommendations for the IRP.**

The Working Group recommended that the *Procedures for AIDCP dolphin-safe certification* be amended to reflect that the deadline for submission of certificates to the Secretariat be changed from five days after the end of the corresponding month to 15 days after.

#### **9. Other business**

There was no other business.

#### **10. Place and date of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held prior to the next IRP meeting in June 2006.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

## Appendix 1.

### ATTENDEES – ASISTENTES

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